

# *Finding Words* *Virginia*

*Presented by the  
Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services*

*I wish I knew what to say.*

*I wish I had the words to explain...*



*Training to be held at Eanes-Pittman Public Safety Training Center  
6610 Public Safety Way • Chesterfield, Virginia  
September 15–19, 2008*

# *Finding Words* *Virginia*

## *Finding Words*

can be difficult for a child victimized by abuse. Emotions of fear or love, or both, for the perpetrator may cause a child to be reluctant to reveal abuse. If a child tries to speak of abuse, he or she may lack the verbal skills to adequately communicate the event(s) to an adult.

## *Finding Words*

can be difficult for a police officer, social worker, or prosecutor who must speak to a child about abuse. In order to communicate competently with a child, the interviewer must be able to speak in a manner consistent with the child's linguistic and developmental abilities.

## *Finding Words*

can be difficult for a child telling a jury about abuse.

## *Finding Words*

can be difficult for an investigator or prosecutor faced with defending an interview from an attack by defense counsel that the child was "led" into making a false accusation.

## *Finding Words*

is a course presented by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) and designed by the National District Attorneys Association's National Center for the Prosecution of Child Abuse in collaboration with CornerHouse, a nonprofit interagency child abuse evaluation and training center located in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

- An intensive five-day course in which students learn the necessary skills to conduct a competent, investigative interview of a child abuse victim using the CornerHouse forensic interview process.
- An interactive course that combines lectures with demonstrations and hands-on experience. Students will conduct a 30 minute interview with an actor/actress playing the role of an abused child and will be critiqued on their performance.
- The ideal course for investigators and prosecutors seeking to enhance their ability to speak to and for abused children.

## *Payment Information*

The tuition fee is \$200 per person. **Do not send tuition payment with your application. Upon notification of your acceptance to the course, payment will be due. If you are accepted and unable to attend, please notify DCJS. No one will be admitted to the course without prior approval by DCJS.** Attendees are responsible for all expenses, including travel, meals, and lodging. This course is for Virginia residents only.

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# Faculty

## *Finding Words Virginia Faculty*

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**Kelly Bober**

*Executive Director  
Winchester-Frederick County Child Advocacy Center  
Winchester, VA*

**Cressondra Conyers, Esq.**

*Chief Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney  
Williamsburg/James City County  
Williamsburg, VA*

**Krista Davidson**

*Child Protective Services Investigator  
Fairfax County Child Protective Services  
Fairfax, VA*

**Twyla DeMoranville**

*Detective  
Spotsylvania Sheriff's Office  
Spotsylvania, VA*

**Nancy Oglesby, Esq.**

*Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney  
Goochland County  
Goochland, VA*

**Lisa Parks**

*City of Lynchburg  
Child Protective Services Supervisor  
Social Services Division  
Lynchburg, VA*

**Grace Werner Ray**

*Director  
Valley Children's Center  
Staunton, VA*

**Chris Rehak, Esq.**

*Commonwealth's Attorney  
City of Radford  
Radford, VA*

**Marcella Rustioni**

*Forensic Interviewer  
Arlington County Child & Family Services  
Division, Child Advocacy Center  
Arlington, VA*

**Tim Spence**

*School Resource Officer  
Patrick Henry High School  
Roanoke, VA*



*Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services  
Attn: Denise Marks  
202 N. Ninth Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219*



[www.dcj.virginia.gov](http://www.dcj.virginia.gov)

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